

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) An e-mail handling method, comprising the step of:

storing an e-mail in a compartment of a compartmented operating system.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising storing an e-mail in a compartment with other e-mails.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the e-mail is stored in an individual compartment.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising assessing the e-mail according to a security policy.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising determining a security status for the e-mail.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, comprising applying a

security tag to the e-mail denoting the security status.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising determining a security status for the e-mail, and storing the e-mail either in an individual compartment or in a compartment for containing plural e-mails, according to the determined security status.

8. (currently amended) An e-mail handling apparatus, comprising:

a computing platform hosting a compartmented operating system; and

an e-mail agent for storing an e-mail in a compartment of a the compartmented operating system.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent stores the e-mail in a compartment with other e-mails.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent stores the e-mail in an individual compartment.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent applies a security tag denoting a security status of the e-mail.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent determines a security status of the e-mail and stores the e-mail either in a compartment with other e-mails or in an individual compartment according to the determined security status.

13. (currently amended) An e-mail handling method comprising the steps of:

- (a) navigating to an e-mail stored in a compartment of a compartmented operating system; and
- (b) opening the e-mail within the compartment.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step (a) comprises navigating to the stored e-mail using a first browser.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first browser is provided outside the compartment where the e-mail is stored.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first browser is able only to navigate to e-mails across compartments.

17. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step (b)

comprises providing a second browser within the compartment where the e-mail is stored.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the second browser is given permission to read an e-mail within the compartment.

19. (original) The method of claim 13, comprising the step (c) of applying a security status to the stored e-mail.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, comprising the step (d) of moving the e-mail to a new compartment consistent with the applied security status.

21. (currently amended) An e-mail handling apparatus, comprising:

a computing platform hosting a compartmented operating system;

a compartment of a the compartmented operating system for storing an e-mail;

a first browser provided outside the compartment for navigating to the e-mail; and

a second browser provided within the compartment for accessing the e-mail.

22. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second browser is spawned by the first browser in response to navigating to the stored e-mail.

23. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first browser is only able to navigate to e-mails across compartments.

24. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second browser is only able to access the e-mail within the compartment.

25. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 24, wherein the second browser is denied access outside the compartment.

26. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the e-mail is one of many stored in the same compartment.

27. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the e-mail is one of many each stored in an individual compartment.